

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION STE-01

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UNCLAS MEXICO 15142

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASUP, ASEC, AFSP
SUBJECT: SAFETY HAZARD-FILING CABINETS

1. THE EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION THE INFERIOR QUALITY OF 5-DRAWER AND 2-DRAWER FILING CABINETS IT HAS RECEIVED FROM GSA. THESE FILING CABINETS ARE CARRIED IN GSA STOCK CATALOG, STOCK NUMBER 7110-00-551-5485.
2. THE CABINETS ARE CONSTRUCTED OF VERY THIN BLACK SHEET METAL. THE DRAWER RUNNERS ARE POORLY DESIGNED AND MADE FROM VERY LIGHT ALUMINUM. AT TIMES, WHEN A DRAWER FULL OF FILES IS OPENED HALF WAY OUT, THE DRAWER WILL FALL COMPLETELY OFF OF THE CABINET. ALSO, WHEN PULLING A DRAWER OUT, THE INDIVIDUAL HAS TO BE VERY CAREFUL OR THEY WILL PULL THE DRAWER COMPLETELY OUT OF THE CABINET. THE DRAWER RUNNERS ARE NOT MADE OF HEAVY ENOUGH MATERIAL OR CONSTRUCTED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO HOLD THE WEIGHT OF A FULL FILE DRAWER OR HAVE PROPER STOPS TO KEEP THE DRAWER FROM BEING PULLED OUT OF THE CABINET.
3. THE CABINET CONSTRUCTION IS SO LIGHT WEIGHT THAT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS WHEN ONE OR TWO DRAWERS HAVE BEEN OPENED, THE CABINET WILL TIP OVER ON THE FLOOR. ALMOST ANY FILING

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MEXICO 15142 150545Z

CABINET WILL DO THIS WHEN THE TOP TWO DRAWERS HAVE BEEN OPENED BUT THIS IS NOT THE CASE IN THESE PARTICULAR FILING CABINETS. IT IS LIABLE TO TIP OVER WHEN ANY ONE OR TWO OF THE DRAWERS HAVE BEEN OPENED, TOP OR BOTTOM.

4. POST HAS ATTEMPTED TO INSTALL BAR-LOCK DEVICES ON SOME OF THE CABINETS WITHOUT MUCH SUCCESS. THE CABINET SHELL IS

TOO THIN AND A CENTER BRACKET CANNOT BE FITTED, ONLY BRACKETS AT THE TOP AND BOTTOM OF THE CABINET. THE BAR CAN EASILY BE PRIED OFF THE CABINET WITHOUT MUCH EFFORT, CONSEQUENTLY MAKING THE CABINET UNSAFE FOR CONTROLLED UNCLASSIFIED FILES OR MATERIAL.

5. ADDITIONALLY, CABINET CONSTRUCTION IS SO FLIMSY THAT UNLESS THE SURFACE ON WHICH IT RESTS IS ABSOLUTELY LEVELED, CABINET DISTORTION TAKES PLACE. AS A RESULT, DRAWERS ARE EITHER VERY DIFFICULT TO OPEN WHEN LOADED, OR ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO CLOSE IF OPENED. THE CABINETS HAVE NO CROSS BRACING ACROSS THE FACE OF THE CABINET BETWEEN DRAWERS.

6. THE POST HAS 152 OF THESE FILING CABINETS IN USE AND IN STOCK IN THE EMBASSY AND SEVERAL ARE IN USE AT THE NINE CONSTITUENT POSTS IN MEXICO. THE EMBASSY SAFETY OFFICER, REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER AND GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER HAVE DETERMINED THAT THESE CABINETS ARE UNSAFE FOR PERSONNEL AND DO NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE STORAGE OF UNCLASSIFIED CONTROLLED MATERIAL. THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT CONTACT GSA AND THE SUPPLIER AND REQUEST THESE FILING CABINETS BE REPLACED WITH A MORE SUITABLE CABINET CONFORMING TO USG SAFETY STANDARDS AND SECURITY STANDARDS FOR CONTROL OF UNCLASSIFIED FILES AND MATERIAL. EMBASSY HAS 52 OF THESE FILING CABINETS ON ORDER AT THIS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MEXICO 15142 150545Z

TIME. POST WILL TRY TO CANCEL THESE ORDERS IF ORDERS HAVE NOT ALREADY BEEN SHIPPED. IF SO, THEY WILL BE STOPPED AT THE EMBASSY WAREHOUSE IN LAREDO, TEXAS AND RETURNED TO SUPPLIER. LUCEY

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